

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 40–49 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. These new claims, as presented herein, are not submitted for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these claims are submitted simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled. Claims 1–39 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 3–4, 6–9, 12–13, 17, 19–20, 22–23, 26, 28–32, 35, and 37–39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Van der Put (U.S. Patent 4,685,097). Claims 2, 18, 27, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van der Put in view of Sonnenschein et al. (U.S. Patent 4,975,358). Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van der Put. Claims 15, 16, 25, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van der Put in view of Shinbori et al. (U.S. Patent 6,128,040).

The present invention converts “an input second voltage into a first voltage greater than the input second voltage.” (Claims 40 and 45) The Examiner asserts Van der Put meets this limitation through its disclosed use of 2 power levels (a high write level and a lower read level) and use of a step-up comparator to switch between the levels if the power level is insufficient.

(Office Action page 4) However, as shown by Van der Put's circuits in Figures 2 and 3, the higher write level is limited to a maximum equal to the input 5V voltage level. This maximum of 5V is insufficient to power the shorter wavelength laser diodes. (Specification page 2, line 1) The present invention is specifically designed for semiconductor laser diodes that emit "a short-wavelength violet laser beam." (Claims 41 and 46) Hence, Van der Put is a perfect example illustrating the very problem the present invention is intended to solve. Namely, a circuit capable of generating a drive voltage higher than an input 5V voltage to drive a short-wavelength laser diode. In the present invention "the second voltage is 5V and the first voltage is between 8V and 10V." (Claims 42 and 47) Thus, in the present invention the 5V input voltage is stepped up to an 8-10V drive voltage sufficient to drive a violet laser diode. Whereas, Van der Put switches between two drive voltages, the higher of which is capped at the input 5V level.

Therefore, for at least this reason, Van der Put, Sonnenschein, and Shinbori, alone or in combination, fail to anticipate or obviate the present invention and new claims 40-49 should be allowed.

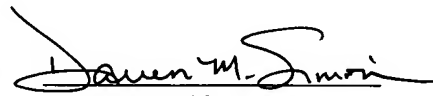
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren M. Simon", written over a horizontal line.

Darren M. Simon
Reg. No. 47,946
(212) 588-0800